

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify and correct errors in the usage of *who*, *whom*, *whose*, and *who's*
- Write with correct usage of *who*, *whom*, *whose*, and *who's*

RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

You will need photocopies for students of:

- **Student Lesson Summary** p. 129
- **Practice Worksheets**, Levels A and B, pp. 130–131
- **Reteaching Worksheet**, p. 132

Teach

1. **Who, Whom, Whose, and Who's:** Make sure students understand the concept of a dependent clause. Write this example on the board:

EXAMPLE The woman who made the pizza is my neighbor.

- Emphasize that when *who* or *whom* is used in a dependent clause students should first isolate the clause. Demonstrate by underlining, as shown, the example you wrote on the board.
- Next, model determining the function of the pronoun in the clause. Circle the word “who.” Ask: In this clause, how is the pronoun *who* functioning; is it subject, direct object, object of a preposition, a possessive pronoun, or a pronoun-verb contraction? (*In this case, who is the subject of the clause.*)
- Explain that *who* is the correct pronoun for subjects. Then write the remaining forms on the board, explaining that *whom* is used for objects, *whose* for the possessive (belonging to), and *who's* for a contraction of the words *who* and *is*.

2. **Teaching Who, Whom, Whose, and Who's:** Distribute the **Lesson Summary**. Go over the **Academic Vocabulary** box.

- Go through **Step 1**. Show students how rephrasing a question as a statement can help them choose the correct form of *who/whom*. Write a sample sentence on the board:

EXAMPLE Whom did you invite to the pizza party?

- Help students rephrase the question in subject-verb-direct object order. (*You did invite whom to the pizza party.*)
- In **Step 2**, ask students to explain why the sentence you wrote on the board requires the pronoun that is a direct object, *whom*. (*because the subject is “you;” since you does the action of inviting; and the direct object is “whom” since “whom” receives the action of inviting.*)
- Review the rules indicated in **Step 3**.

3. **Guided Practice:** Work with students to practice using *who*, *whom*, *whose*, and *who's* correctly. Use the following activities.

- **Rule 1:** Point out that in casual or friendly conversation, emails, letters, etc. people often use *who/whom* incorrectly in questions, but that in writing for school, business, or publication, more formal usage is preferred. Write the following examples on the board or read them aloud. Then have students provide similar examples.

WHO, WHOM, WHOSE, AND WHO'S, CONTINUED

EXAMPLES

Informal: Who did you see in the cafeteria?

Formal: Whom did you see in the cafeteria?

- **Rule 2.** Make sure students understand that a predicate pronoun is a pronoun that comes after a form of the verb *to be*. Provide the following examples and have students brainstorm similar ones.

EXAMPLES

Object: In the cafeteria, you saw whom?

Predicate Pronoun: The student in the cafeteria is who?

- **Rule 3:** Direct students' attention to the **Lesson Summary**. Go over the examples with students. Stress that writers frequently misuse *who* and *whom* after prepositions, especially in dependent clauses. What sounds right may not be correct. A pronoun should always be chosen on the basis of its function in the clause. For each example have students explain whether the pronoun is doing the action or receiving the action. (*all are receiving*)
- **Rule 4:** Make sure students understand that the pronoun *whose* denotes possession or ownership and that *who's* is a contraction for *who is* or *who has*. Read the following examples aloud, asking students which spelling—*who's* or *whose*—would be used to write the sentence.

EXAMPLES

Whose seat are you saving?

Who's sitting there?

Who's eating that piece of pie?

Whose pie is that?

QUICK CHECK. Write each numbered sentence on the board. Ask students to explain what is wrong and then correct it.

1. Whom got the highest grade on the test? (*The pronoun whom is an object pronoun, but a subject pronoun is required; Who got the highest grade on the test?*)
2. The council member who we elected was Teresa. (*The pronoun who is a subject pronoun, but an object pronoun is required as the direct object of elected; The council member whom we elected was Teresa.*)
3. Do you know whose running for class president? (*The pronoun whose shows possession, but there is no ownership discussed in this sentence. Thus, the contraction for who is required; Do you know who's running for class president?*)

Practice and Apply

Activities involving the use of *who/whom/whose/who's* appear on pp. 130–131.

- Assign **Practice Worksheet A** to students who need more structured activities.
- Assign **Practice Worksheet B** to grade-level or above-level students.

Answer Key: Practice Worksheet A

1. *who*
2. *who*
3. *whose*
4. *who*
5. *who*
6. *whom*
7. *who's*
8. *who*
9. *whom*
10. *who*

Answer Key: Practice Worksheet B

1. *whom*
2. *whom*
3. *whom*
4. *whose*
5. *who*

6–10. *Once in the White House, Eleanor, who had a keen understanding of social conditions, transformed the role of First Lady. There were few Americans to whom Eleanor's name was unfamiliar. Many experts who have studied the history of civil rights credit Eleanor Roosevelt as a leader in the cause of social justice. Mrs. Roosevelt, whose daily newspaper columns were widely read, spoke out strongly for the rights of women. As First Lady, she was an activist whose social conscience made an impact on national affairs.*

Assess and Reteach

Use these guidelines to determine if students need the **Reteaching Worksheet**.

- **Practice Worksheet A:** Students should answer at least nine items correctly.
- **Practice Worksheet B:** Students should answer at least four out of items 1–5 correctly, and should correct the 4 errors in items 6–10.

For students who need reteaching, review the **Student Lesson Summary**. Focus on the examples, and relate them to the rules. Brainstorm one or two new examples with students. Then have them complete the **Reteaching Worksheet**.

Answer Key: Reteaching Worksheet

1. *whose*
2. *who*
3. *who*
4. *Who's*
5. *whom*
6. *Who*
7. *whom*
8. *Who's*
9. *who*
10. *who*